



INDIANA *for* COMMISSION
HIGHER EDUCATION

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Community College Expansion Approved

Today the Legislative Council and the State Budget Committee endorsed the expansion of the community college system to thirteen additional Ivy Tech State College campuses. The community college currently is in place at ten sites. With this expansion, every Hoosier will live within 35 miles of a community college by fall 2005.

The thirteen sites had been recommended to the Legislative Council by the Community College Policy Committee, which, by state law, is charged with overseeing implementation of the community college system. The Legislative Council's endorsement cleared the way for final approval by the State Budget Committee.

Referring to both meetings, Governor Joe Kernan stated, "I am pleased that the Legislative Council and State Budget Committee have given their approval for this move forward with the community college. In just five years, the Community College of Indiana has quickly become a vital part of our state's higher education system. This expansion to 23 campuses statewide will mean that an affordable college degree is even more accessible to our citizens."

The Legislative Council, which consists of eight Senators and eight Representatives, has responsibility for directing the work of interim study committees and the Legislative Services Agency while the General Assembly is not in session. The State Budget Committee, which is composed of two Representatives and two Senators and the Director of the Budget Agency, has responsibility for reviewing financial matters while the General Assembly is not in session. Legislation enacted by the General Assembly in 1999 requires endorsement by the Legislative Council and the Budget Committee of all sites where the community college system is to be implemented.

Today's actions followed the Governor's announcement last week in which he outlined plans for statewide expansion of the community college to increase affordable educational opportunities for Hoosiers. Already the community college has exceeded earlier expectations enrolling more than 26,000 students in its first five years – just 3,500 short of the ten-year goal.

In 1999, Governor Frank O'Bannon announced the creation of the state community college system as an aggressive step in improving adult participation in higher education. Statistics indicate that adult participation in higher education is low (3.6%) when compared to other states with community colleges. While Indiana continues to produce bachelor's degrees at a rate above the national average, Indiana falls below the national average for associate degrees.

Community College Sites

Current 10 Community College Sites

Gary
Valparaiso
East Chicago
Michigan City
Lafayette
Muncie
Anderson
Marion
Indianapolis
Evansville

Additional 13 Community College Expansion Sites

South Bend
Warsaw
Elkhart
Fort Wayne
Kokomo
Logansport
Terre Haute
Richmond
Columbus
Madison
Lawrenceburg
Sellersburg
Bloomington

Progress Toward 10-Year Enrollment Goal

